



FILED
#5/A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Shi-You Ding, et al. Docket No.: NREL 01-35
Serial No.: 09/917,378
Filed: July 28, 2001
Title: THERMAL TOLERANT MANNANASE FROM CELLULASE FROM
ACIDOTHERMUS CELLULOLYTICUS

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT; AND RESPONSE TO
NOTICE TO FILE MISSING PARTS**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The present papers are submitted in response to the Notice to File Missing Parts, which Notice contained a statement that the application fails to comply with requirements for patent applications containing nucleotide sequence and/or amino acid sequence disclosures, mailed August 22, 2001. The present paper is timely filed as it is being filed prior to the expiration date of the period to respond, which date is **October 22, 2001**. No request for extension of time is deemed necessary. However, should a request for extension of time be necessary, please consider this paper to constitute such a request.

Also, in response to the Notice to File Missing Parts, which Notice contained a statement that the signature of "Stephen R. Decker" is missing from the oath or declaration and to avoid abandonment, a late filing fee or oath or declaration surcharge must be submitted with the missing items. Applicant in preparing the application, inadvertently failed to remove the name of Stephen R. Decker from the title page of the application. Applicant filed three additional applications that same day in which Stephen R. Decker was listed as an inventor, but not on this particular application. Applicant request Stephen R. Decker's name be removed from the title page, and as such, the need for a surcharge or late filing fee under 37 CFR 1.16(e) and the submittal of a new oath or declaration is not required.